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NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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7 DUI Checkpoints Set for Thanksgiving Weekend –
4 on Thanksgiving Eve Alone

Dover – Seven sobriety checkpoints are scheduled for the coming Thanksgiving weekend with four of them occurring on Thanksgiving Eve alone. The night before this holiday is a big night for impaired driving according to state and local law enforcement officers. The checkpoints are part of a weekend long enforcement blitz which help kick off the Office of Highway Safety's 10th annual Safe Family Holiday Campaign. Delaware State Police and the New Castle County DUI task force will be conducting all of the sobriety checkpoints.

The following are the scheduled checkpoints:

Wednesday Nov. 26th - Newark - NcCo DUI Task Force
Newport – DSP Troop 6
Dover – DSP Troop 3
Fenwick Island – DSP Troop 4

Friday Nov. 28th - Blades – DSP Troop 5
NcCo – NcCo DUI Task Force

Saturday November 29th – Red Lion – DSP Troop 9

The checkpoints will be supplemented with 69 DUI saturation patrols throughout the weekend by State, County and Municipal police agencies. Additionally, OHS is partnering with State Police on an enforcement activities aimed at stopping speeding, aggressive and unbelted drivers throughout the weekend. Nearly 70 of these patrols are scheduled to occur, including some team enforcement activities near peak volume areas around shopping centers.

OHS encourages motorists to minimize distractions in their vehicles, buckle up, and slow down, particularly on the peak travel day of Wednesday as well as Black Friday and Saturday when many will be out shopping and may find themselves frustrated with additional traffic.

The Safe Family Holiday campaign includes both enforcement and awareness activities, including those conducted as part of OHS's ongoing *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign. Last weekend, law enforcement officers statewide arrested 19 individuals for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol (Nov. 21st & 22nd). This brings the total number of people arrested for DUI during the 2008 "Checkpoint Strikeforce" campaign to 432.

In addition to the weekend's 19 DUI arrests, officers issued 12 citations for underage drinking violations, apprehended 5 wanted individuals, made 3 drug arrests, 2 felony arrests, issued 4 seat belt citations, 1 child restraint citation, and 57 citations for various other traffic violations.

The checkpoints are part of OHS's ongoing *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign. Now in its seventh year, "Checkpoint Strikeforce" is a multi-state crackdown on impaired drivers coordinated locally by the Delaware Office of Highway Safety. Participating law enforcement agencies are conducting weekly DUI checkpoints through New Year's Eve, and monthly checkpoints in the spring, all with the goal of deterring impaired drivers and arresting DUI offenders.

For weekly and ongoing campaign statistical updates please visit our website at www.ohs.delaware.gov and click on the *Checkpoint Strikeforce* icon in the center of the page.

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